

Remarks

The various parts of the Office Action (and other matters, if any) are discussed below under appropriate headings.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The claims have been amended to bring them into conformance of with U.S. claiming practice. The amendments are believed to render moot the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112. In particular, the recitations fo a narrow range within a broader range have been deleted, the use of "provided" has been curtailed, and the reference to "other papers" has been clarified.

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The previously submitted claims were rejected as being anticipated by Perrin '039. These rejections are now moot in that the claims have been amended to recite a feature not disclosed or suggested by Perrin '039, this being a décor paper comprising conductive carbon with an average particle size of less than 1000 nm.

Perrin '039 discloses the use of conductive pigments constituted by a substrate (chosen from the group including micas, talcum, kaolin, bentonites, montmorillonites or glass particles) which has a basic lamellar-type structure coated with an electroconductive layer of tin oxide doped with antimony. Moreover, Perrin '039 teaches away from the use of materials like carbon black in respect of a decorative layer.

The major disadvantage of carbon black is that black products are obtained, which may be a problem from an aesthetic standpoint and means that the products cannot be printed in the way one might wish.

Column 3, lines 1-4. Consequently, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that conductive carbon with an average particle size of less than 1000 nm could be successfully used in a décor paper.

Perhaps the closest prior art is U.S. Patent No. 4,472,474, but this patent discloses the use of conductive particles in the paper core of the panel and not in the décor paper.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, request is made for timely issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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